

'Hijacked' Afghan plane crashes

NICOSIA (AP) — An unknown number of gunmen tried to seize an Afghan airliner Sunday, but it crashed in eastern Iran after they struggled with the pilot, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The official Iranian agency, based in Tehran, said the Soviet-built Antonov AN-26 airliner went down near the city of Zabol, close to the rugged southern Afghan border. IRNA said early reports from the region said there were 36 passengers aboard the 40-seat, short-haul aircraft. The civilian version of the plane, originally designed as a military transport, normally carries a crew of five or six. The agency said Prime Minister Hussein Massi sent his deputy premier for political affairs, Alireza Moayyeri, to Zabol to investigate the incident. IRNA said the plane crashed at 12:30 p.m. (1000 GMT) and that Iranian rescue teams were immediately ordered to the scene in Sistan-Baluchestan province. The agency said it was not known how many casualties there were. But it quoted Moayyeri as saying before he left Tehran, 1,100 kilometers northwest of Zabol, that 20 people, including the pilot, had been dragged from the wreckage and hospitalized in Zabol. The pilot was identified as Mirvin Pakha, the agency reported. It did not list his condition.

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Bonn presses for peace conference

BONN (AP) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in a meeting Sunday with his Israeli counterpart, stepped up pressure on Israel to agree to an international peace conference on the Middle East. In talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Genscher spoke out for an "international peace conference with the participation of all parties in the conflict," said a spokesman for Genscher. Genscher "made clear the interests of the Federal Republic" and of the whole European Community (EC) in arranging such a panel, said the spokesman. According to the spokesman, Arens explained to Genscher an initiative by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir which would include Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to be followed by talks on temporary "self-rule" with elected Palestinian representatives. The spokesman did not say how Genscher responded. West European countries including West Germany have been pressing Shamir to drop his opposition to calling together an international Middle East peace conference. In their three-hour meeting, Genscher also informed Arens about the "course and results" of President Mikhail Gorbachev's just-concluded visit to West Germany, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

JTG signs agreement with Schweizer, understanding with SOPLEM, Thorn

Jordan Aerospace Company set up

By Rana Atalia
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IRE, which is expected to be set up in Jordan in one year, has not been determined yet, he said.

Another memorandum of understanding was signed with the British company Thorn EMI for the production, maintenance and marketing of night-vision equipment, including infrared detection (FAA).

Qassem told the Jordan Times earlier this month that the four-seater helicopter, which will be priced at approximately \$389,000 each, would be sold in the Middle East, a market capable of absorbing 300 or so of the light-weight machine.

Between 30 to 40 per cent of the work on the helicopter would be done in Jordan, he said, but that would cover assembly of the airframe rather than more complex parts such as the engine, rotors or avionics.

A private shareholding company, the JTG was established in 1988 to make use of Jordan's comparative advantage of low-cost, high-skilled labour and assist in marketing the Kingdom as a centre for technology transfer in the region.

Qassem said a feasibility study for the SOPLEM project, currently being prepared by the JTG, would be completed within two to three weeks. Another financial study had already indicated the feasibility of the Jordan-Thorn EMI project.

A special wing at Le Bourget air show, which ended in Paris Sunday, displayed a sample of the

AMMAN — An agreement was signed Sunday at Paris' Le Bourget International Air Show between the U.S.-based Schweizer Aircraft Corporation and the Jordan Technology Group (JTG), formally establishing the Jordan Aerospace Company (JAC) which will assemble light-weight helicopters in Jordan, a JTG manager said.

The newly-formed company, expected to assemble, and eventually coproduce, approximately 100 T-5-330 helicopters in the next five years, will be half-owned by JTG, with the remaining 50 per cent distributed between Schweizer with 35 per cent equity and the rest owned by the Cyprus-based Aerospace Marketing Services (AMS), Laiti Al Qassem told the Jordan Times.

Qassem said the JTG also signed a memorandum of understanding with SOPLEM, a French manufacturer of night-vision equipment, to set up a regional centre for the maintenance and marketing of SOPLEM equipment sold in the region.

The exact location for the cen-

Jordan, PLO to discuss aid for occupied territories

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

Arab countries who have not paid us yet and based on that, we will decide how to continue our efforts," Bseiso told Reuters.

Jordanian and PLO officials would be meeting for the first time since launching a campaign last December for Arab aid for the occupied territories.

Fuad Bseiso, secretary-general of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People Living in the Occupied Territories, said the meeting in Amman later this month would review efforts to persuade Arab states to pay \$450 million in arrears.

"We will study the results of the contacts we had with the

Gulf states has pledged to give the fund \$100 million a year over 10 years when it was set up in 1978 by an Arab League summit in Baghdad. But fund officials said they had received less than half of the \$1 billion pledged.

The fund has spent nearly \$430 million given by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates on projects to improve

AMMAN — The coffers of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian aid fund for the Israeli-occupied territories are empty and its organizers will meet soon to assess a drive for over-due Arab contributions.

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Jordanian and PLO officials would be meeting for the first time since launching a campaign last December for Arab aid for the occupied territories.

"But we are optimistic," Bseiso said. "We are full of hope that the Arabs will honour their commitments to allow us ease the burdens on Palestinians that have resulted from the Israeli practices."

Samir Kaiteh, head of West Bank Medical Association, was quoted Sunday as warning health services were deteriorating in the occupied territories during the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Two conservative newspapers, Al Anwar and Al Diyar, said three Arab leaders trying to end the 14-year-old civil war would hold talks in Morocco next week to try to break the deadlock.

King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid were asked to bring peace to Lebanon within six months at last month's summit meeting in Casablanca of the 22-member Arab League.

Defying the cease-fire, Syrian-backed Lebanese militia gunners have unleashed daily artillery barrages against the coastline north of Beirut to prevent arms and food supplies from reaching forces of troops loyal to army commander Michel Aoun.

Police said Syrian batteries de-

ployed in and around west Beirut Sunday sporadically fired shells at the ports of Jounieh, Tabarja, Byblos and Ameet.

Police said Aoun's troops also fought gunbattles with the militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Sunday at the mountain-top town of Souq Ghir, 16 kilometres east of the capital. No casualties were reported.

At least 373 people have been killed and 1,450 wounded since Aoun's confrontation with the Syrian-backed PSP broke out March 8.

Two days earlier Aoun, who heads the military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, ordered his gunboats and helicopter gunships to blockade three illegal harbours run by militias south Beirut.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt, retaliated by shelling the 800-square kilometre rightist enclave where Aoun's 20,000 troops are based.

Syrian troops later joined the bombardment, sealed off the en-

clave's land exits and blockaded

its sea outlets with artillery fire.

The fighting shut down Beirut international airport.

Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Lakhdar Ibrahim, who represents the summit committee in Lebanon, made vain attempts last week to work out a compromise.

Al Diyar, which is close to

Aoun, said the Syrians insist on deploying Arab observers, mostly from Algeria, at all Lebanese seaports to prevent fresh arms supplies from reaching Aoun's troops and the militias.

Aoun said he would accept the

Arab force, provided they are also deployed along Lebanon's 228-kilometre border with Syria to prevent arms from reaching the 40,000 Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon, Al Diyar said.

Ibrahim has appealed to the

leaders' committee, hoping Hasan, Fahd and Benjedid can

pressure the belligerents in Lebanon to compromise. Al Diyar and Al Anwar said.

"Now we are only co-opting the communists," Krystek said.

The national election commission said a paltry 8.5 per cent of the 27 million voters cast their ballots by noon, six hours after

Second-round voting rules en-

sured that all seats would be

filled, giving the Communists and

their allies the 65 per cent of the

Sejm and Solidarity 35 per cent

that they agreed in a pre-election

pact.

Rushdie, who denied the

book is blasphemous, attacked

the way it was said modern Islam

is closing itself off from the pro-

cesses of imagination and schol-

arship.

It was in Bradford, which was

the largest Muslim com-

munity, that Islamic leaders

first drew attention to their

hatred of the book by burning

copies in public last January.

Rushdie, who described him-

self as a lapsed Muslim, said he

felt saddened by the ban on his

book by many Islamic countries

and by the willingness of his

critics to attack him without

having read it, according to the

Mail on Sunday.

"They're willing to say things

about my work which are not

based on reading," he said.

The Satanic Verses is a sur-

real novel about good and evil

and Rushdie has argued that

Islam is too strong to be under-

mined by his fictional writings.

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Two 'saboteurs,' 15 drug traffickers hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two would-be saboteurs and 15 drug traffickers were hanged in two Iranian provinces Saturday, and 11 other suspected drug smugglers were arrested in the past week, Tehran Television reported.

They were the first executions and arrests reported in Iran since the fundamentalist founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died June 3 at age 86.

The U.S. State Department and many humanitarian organisations including the London-based Amnesty International have criticised Iran in recent months for a wide-spread wave of executions.

Reports have said in addition to the alleged drug traffickers, many of those put to death were political prisoners.

The main Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq charges that many of the major drug operations in Iran and abroad are run by "senior figures in the mullahs' regime."

The television said that the other two executions were carried out in the city of Zahedan, and identified those hanged as Piri Qanbarzai and Abdolghani Rakhsani. It did not give their ages or provide other details on their identity.

The television said the two saboteurs were convicted by an Islamic court of all the charges brought against them. It listed their offences as illegal possession of weapons and explosives and "plotting against national security."

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, did not mention actual involvement in any act of sabotage.

It did not say where in Zahedan, the capital of the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, the two men were hanged.

A separate report also from the city, the television said 840 kilogrammes of narcotics were confiscated and 11 people arrested in three operations in the past week.

The drugs seized included 30 kilogrammes of heroin, and all the rest was opium, it said.

A new law that went into effect last January mandates the death penalty for anyone found in the possession of even small quantities of drugs. Hundreds have since been executed for drug offences.

Most traffickers have been arrested in the Sistan-Baluchestan province or the northeastern Khorasan along the borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Iranian officials ordered the anti-narcotics campaign after the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war with Iraq. More than a million people are reportedly involved in drug abuse in Iran.

Teheran Radio, broadcasting Khomeini's speech in its midday news bulletin Wednesday, "deliberately omitted Khomeini's expression of support for Rafsanjani and his assertion that Rafsanjani was irreplaceable as the man who should take over the post of a unified chief executive," according to the Mujahedeen.

"But several hours later, in Tehran Radio's 8:00 p.m. (16:30 GMT) news bulletin, these remarks were broadcast alongside the rest of Khomeini's speech. The announcement came as a surprise to the public. Clearly, there were contacts between the two main adversaries in the dispute — Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeini — in the interval between the two news bulletins, with the idea of having Ahmad forfeit his presidential hopes while Khomeini's support for Rafsanjani would be kept undisclosed," it said.

"It is evident that the purpose behind the resumption of executions is solely to terrorise the public, particularly at a time when the incurable crises of the regime and factional infighting are reaching a new peak," said a Mujahedeen statement received by the Jordan Times Sunday. "The fact is, however, that these executions will not only solve no problem for the regime, but will aggravate the explosive trend of the crises faced by the Khomeini regime's remnants, particularly now that Khomeini is dead. Similarly, the inevitable overthrow of this regime by the National Liberation Army of Iran will be accelerated."

Power struggle

An earlier statement, the Mujahedeen said that by "declaring his explicit support for Parliament Speaker Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani's presidential bid, Khomeini's successor Ali Khomeini has unveiled the power struggle among Khomeini's remnants.

"Khomeini's gesture was in response to the announcement by Khomeini's son, Ahmad Khomeini, of his presidential aspirations and candidacy, brought up two days earlier in Ahmad's sister's interview with the Washington Post, it said.

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Iranian mullahs and crowds gather near the grave site of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran. A

dated the philosophy and logic of holding such elections," it added.

"Now, Ahmad Khomeini has

giant poster of Khomeini hangs over the crowds and reads: 'I'm to God, and to Him I Return' to speak out and declare his retreat or there will be an inevitable showdown between him and Rafsanjani in the power struggle that has come to surface," it concluded.

Flesh-eating American parasite emerging from Libyan winter

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TRIPOLI — A deadly, flesh-eating American parasite is emerging from hibernation in Libya, threatening both man and beast in the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The screwworm fly lays eggs in wounds in warm-blooded animals, including humans. The hatching larvae eat the flesh of their host, killing about one fifth of victims.

Head of Libya's veterinary service Dr. Masaad Abu Sowa told Reuters the first infection of the year by the fly, which until 1988 was unknown outside North and South America, was detected in livestock in the Tripoli area May 25.

But how the flies managed to cross the Atlantic to begin breeding in Libya is still puzzling health

officials.

Experts are waiting for larvae to hatch but assume they are *cochliomyia hominivorax*, which, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, attacked between 2,000 and 3,000 domestic animals in northwest Libya last year.

Tripoli hospitals treated some human cases, including at least three at the university's medical college, officials said.

FAO has said the unexplained spread of the pest to Libya could have serious consequences for livestock, wildlife and even humans in Africa, the Middle East and southern Europe.

"It is feared that the insect can spread rapidly to areas with suitable tropical and subtropical climatic conditions," FAO Director General

Edouard Saouma told member states in early May.

It can and has been eradicated in parts of North America by careful inspection and treatment, tight controls on livestock movements and by breaking the cycle of reproduction through releasing millions of flies sterilised by radiation.

Abu Sowa said it was not clear why the fly took so long to reappear this year, since in its normal habitat the insect usually starts breeding when the temperature reaches 15 to 20 degrees Centigrade (59 to 68 Fahrenheit). The noon temperature in Tripoli is already in the 30s (90s).

Groups of students were checking animals for wounds in an area of about 80,000 square kilometres, from the Tunisian border to the Gulf of Sirte and 200 kilometres south into the desert.

he said.

The outbreak last summer and autumn was within the same area, centred on Tripoli and spreading 180 kilometres along the coast, FAO said.

The students had sent in hundreds of samples of eggs from wounds but, except in the May 25 case, these were all from relatively harmless species of insects, Abu Sowa said.

"We will not stop the campaign until the winter, even if no cases are confirmed throughout the season," he added.

Abu Sowa denied reports of at least one case close to the Egyptian border, more than 1,000 kilometres to the east, and the head of the veterinary department in the eastern capital of Benghazi said the fly had not reached his area.

Israeli soldiers kill West Bank boy

(Continued from page 1)
army officer and a 50-year-old Palestinian man were wounded outside an office of the army-run "civil administration" when an assailant in a passing car opened fire, according to reports.

In the Bethlehem area, residents reported raids on several villages during the night, with clashes in Beit Sahour and Deir Safrah villages and mass arrests in Dheisheh refugee camp.

At the Gaza Strip checkpoint to Israel, authorities at the checkpoint

to Israel turned back workers from the Jabalya district who did not have coded entry cards.

Uprising activists then tried to stop workers with the cards from entering Israel to prevent discrimination between workers with and without the permits, Palestinians said.

In Deir Al Balah camp Palestinians blew up the office of a suspected collaborator. The man was said to have been a go-between involved in the issue of Israel's "civil administration" permits to Arabs, and had been wounded during the uprising to stop his

work, residents said.

In Jerusalem, police said two masked assailants seized a gun from an Arab policeman as he walked to work.

Reporters said a 2-year-old Palestinian girl was seriously wounded in the back after an Arab who is an alleged collaborator opened fire with a sub-machine gun during a dispute with local officials who had cut off his electricity for non-payment. The incident occurred in the West Bank village of Tulkarem.

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Kabul says 322 rebels killed

KABUL (AP) — Afghan troops

backed by artillery and air support

drove guerrillas from a crucial area near Jalalabad, pushing them towards the border with Pakistan, the government has announced.

The state Bakhtar News Agency reported late Saturday that at least 229 rebels were killed in the offensive and that 93 died in clashes elsewhere in Afghanistan.

The report made no mention of losses suffered by government forces.

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Al Al Bayt begins conference Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research, Al Al Bayt Foundation, will open a five-day conference in Amman Monday with the participation of 78 delegates from Arab and Islamic nations.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, His Majesty King Hussein will address the opening session at the University of Jordan to outline the importance of the conference and the two seminars which will be held on its sidelines.

According to the agency, one of the seminars will tackle coordination and cooperation among Islamic scientific research institutions and the second will cover various patterns of life in Islam and the effect of Islam on health development.

The conference, which will be chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will also be attended by a group of Muslim scholars and intellectuals, in addition to the 78 foundation members and corresponding members.

The academy, which was established in 1981, was meant to be as a senate for Muslim scholars and

scholars who are concerned with Muslim studies with definite general objectives.

It aims to spread deeper and wider knowledge of Islamic law, present a modern integrated Islamic concept of the values and systems of Islamic society, to assess Islamic contributions to knowledge and culture, to present an Islamic view of the methodology of the various fields of knowledge and to orient Arab and Islamic universities and research centres in this regard.

The academy is an independent non-governmental body, so funding of all its projects depends on funds contributions from individuals and private and public organisations.

In a relatively short period of its existence, the academy established working relations with over 200 prominent scholars and with similar academics, research centres, universities and academic institutions around the world.

According to Petra, the conference is being organised in cooperation with the Washington-based International Institute for Islamic Thought.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated His Royal Highness Prince Ali to attend the funeral of the late Mazen Ajlouni. Prince Hassan also delegated his advisor and director of the Badia Development Office Mohammad Al Njadat to convey his condolences to Al Oudah family over the death of the late student Nai' Al Ali Al Qudah. (Petra)

PHOTO EXHIBITION: A five-day photo exhibition, organised by Greater Amman Municipality to mark Jordan's Independence Day, was held at Ramtha Professional Associations Complex Sunday. The photos reflect the achievements made during His Majesty King Hussein's rule. (Petra)

KHAYYAT DISCUSSES PILGRIMAGE: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Sunday discussed with members of the official teams accompanying pilgrims to Mecca this year, the duties assigned to them and called on them to facilitate the Hajj procedures, and to extend every possible help to enable pilgrims to perform Hajj very easily and smoothly. (Petra)

KARAK ROAD PROJECTS: Karak Governor Fayed Al Ahbabi Sunday endorsed the government tenders committee's decision to offer tenders worth JD 63,950 for the construction and maintenance of roads and culverts in the governorate. (Petra)



New soccer stadium

THE UNIVERSITY of Jordan and the Greater Amman Municipality will cooperate in setting up a soccer field at the university's Physical Education Faculty grounds in Amman, according to an agreement signed here Sunday. Under the agreement the municipality will build the grounds with turf and that both sides will have access to the field to organise soccer matches. The agreement was signed by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasit Art Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition on Jordan by Francis Chaverat at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photo exhibition on Bertolt Brecht's life and famous theatre performances at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs on Arabic and orientalist architecture by Radouf Hammadi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabata at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "Treasures of the Desert" — Hama region — at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of handicrafts which includes ceramics, knit-wear and pottery at the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Rule" at the Professional Associations Complex, Ramtha.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ A poetry recital by Arab poet Suleiman Al Issa at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FOLKLORE

- ★ Jordanian folkloric shows by Jordan Youth Troupe at the main theatre of King Abdullah Complex.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visits the General Federation of Jordanian Women (Petra photo)

Queen praises women's federation for its income-generating projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday congratulated the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) for taking the initial steps towards developing real income-generating projects and described them as a genuine support designed to enhance the role of women in contributing towards the development of the society and their immediate family.

Queen Noor was speaking Sunday during a visit to the General Federation of Jordanian Women, designed to familiarise herself with the federation needs, achievements, its present and future plans and to identify the problems facing Jordanian women to practice their rights in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Queen Noor also stressed the importance of developing and diversifying these projects and opening avenues for marketing the products in the Kingdom and abroad.

Expatriates to discuss 4 major working papers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth Jordanian expatriates conference, due to open on July 8, will deal with four working papers in political, economic, scientific and technological subjects as well as the implementation of resolutions of previous conferences, Minister of Labour Jamal Bdur announced here Sunday.

He said that the political paper will project the basic principles in Jordan's political stand, developments in the Jordanian, pan-Arab and international arenas, and Jordan's role in upholding the Palestinian cause and supporting the Palestinian people's just struggle, as well as His Majesty King Hussein continued efforts to bring about consensus and agreement among the Arab countries.

According to the minister, the economic paper dwells on the economic, financial and monetary situation in Jordan, and various government measures being taken to deal with the present crisis as well as areas for investment.

Bdur said that the coming conference will discuss the role of science and technology in socio-economic development in Jordan and another on the implementation of previous expatriates' resolutions.

The minister noted that the government had carried out most of the resolutions and recommendations passed by the previous four conferences, thus further bolstering the expatriates

ties with their home country. The minister said that resolutions on dual nationality, social security services, national services, exemptions and customs facilities as well as rights to housing and higher education were all put into force.

The government has created a special department at the Ministry of Labour to take charge of the expatriates affairs, to oversee the implementation of the resolutions, the minister added.

A resolution by the third expatriates conference to set up a holding company that would channel funds for development projects is being established, and the company's constituent founders and shareholders living in Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have provided more than 40 per cent of the company's total capital of JD 5 million, the minister pointed out.

Referring to the projected private university, to be known as the University of Applied Sciences, the minister said that it was the brain child of the fourth expatriates conference last year. The cabinet has now endorsed a law on this university whose capital is expected to be JD 11 million, Bdur said.

The minister noted that the expatriates themselves will provide other working papers dealing with economic issues and expatriates transfers home.

Badrani, Suddartha lay cornerstone for Baqa'a research, outreach centre

AMMAN (USIA) — Minister of Agriculture Dr. Adnan Badrani, and American Ambassador Rose S. Suddartha together laid the cornerstone for the new National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) at Baqa'a Sunday.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is funding the \$7 million cost of constructing the facilities which are being built by five Jordanian contractors.

Speakers at the ceremony praised the work of the farmer, noting the importance of agriculture in Jordan's economy. "They planted, and we ate," remarked Suddartha. "Now we plant that they may eat." USAID Acting Director William McKinney, and other key Minister of Agriculture and USAID personnel attended the ceremony.

The multi-storey national centre will house NCARTT administrative and planning staff and central research laboratories. It will provide sophisticated research and analysis of agricultural problems brought to its attention by four regional service centres which are presently being constructed at Mashaqar, Rabba, Shobak, and Ramtha.

The development of NCARTT is being funded through a \$27.5 million project, the largest technical assistance project USAID has undertaken during its 37 years of assistance to Jordan.

The purpose of the national centre and its regional centres is to:

— Study farming problems as

they arise whether plant diseases, irrigation problems, planting techniques, harvesting and marketing practices.

— Find solutions to problems.

— Get practical solutions to the farmers right away. For example, a farmer noting a problem with his peach trees could seek advice from an extension agent at the nearest regional centre. The regional centre would advise and would package some specimens for study and analysis at the major research facilities of NCARTT at Baqa'a. The results of this study, together with recommendations, would go to the farmer via the regional extension agent who would provide hands on demonstrations and follow up.

The importance of supporting farm work with advanced research facilities and of linking researchers directly with people engaged in farming, can hardly be overstated.

In the early 1950's, USAID helped to establish the Department of Extension in the Ministry of Agriculture which educated farmers in all phases of crop management and animal husbandry. USAID also fostered the Rural Development Department.

In 1980, in an effort to increase crop yields, USAID assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in modernising the Research Centre at Deir Alla. With the completion of the National Research Centre at Baqa'a and the four new regional centres, farmers in every area of Jordan will be served by modern research facilities and extension information.

PSD seizes hashish worth JD 300,000

Syrian driver arrested

AMMAN (Agencies) — A haul of hashish with a street value estimated at JD 300,000 was seized by police and customs authorities as it was being smuggled into Jordan from Syria.

Colonel Ghaleb Al Zoubi, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department at the Public Security Department (PSD) said that 232 kilogrammes of hashish were found hidden inside a lorry that arrived at the border town of Ramtha on its way into Jordan.

Special work had been done on the lorry to find suitable hiding places for the drugs which were discovered after a thorough search by security and customs officials at the border post. Zoubi

noted that the Syrian driver, who was apprehended and the truck was confiscated with its illicit goods, but he declined to reveal

the identity of the man.

He said in an interview that a Jordanian gang was involved in this operation. He admitted that no arrests have been made in Jordan, but that several suspects were being watched.

Zoubi said that 3.5 tonnes of drugs have been confiscated since January, marking a significant increase compared to past years and specifically last year.

Scores have been arrested since the beginning of the year, but an exact figure was not immediately available.

Last April the military court convicted four Syrians among a group of 16 people who were

found to have been involved in drug trafficking cases in Jordan. In March 1989, the PSD announced that it had broken the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, 300,000 captagon pills with a total street value of JD 2 million.

Zoubi said that his department has achieved major successes over the past few years in busting drug rings who had tried to use Jordanian territory to smuggle drugs to various Arab countries. He said that Jordan is not a large drug consumer country but its territory had served as a transit ground for the traffickers in view of its central geographic location within the Arab World.

According to available statistics, 90 per cent of drug trafficking cases in Jordan are related to the Kingdom being a transit point for drug shipped from Turkey and Lebanon to neighbouring countries, with a tiny proportion smuggled for the local market.

Jordan begins implementing national environment strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has embarked on the implementation of a national environment strategy in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources which helped to provide the Kingdom with more than \$300,000 for the project, according to Dr. Sufian Al Tal, director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and The Environment.

The Queen called for more active role for women in the economic and social development of the country and for enhancing women's participation in parliamentary elections.

President of GFJW Haifa Al Bashir reviewed the role played by the Jordanian woman in the various development fields and stressed the need for setting up a specialised centre for studying women's issues as well as for creating a department for women with the authority to take decisions on the planning and financing of women projects.

She also stressed the need for the GFJW to be represented in all occasions, committees and conferences.

ment of pasture lands, setting up wildlife reserves to provide protection to animals and various strains of plants and developing the Jordanian side of the Hama Basin near the Iraqi-Saudi border, Tal noted.

In September 1988, Jordan and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources signed a draft agreement, paving the way for implementation of the national environment strategy for which the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) promised to provide \$383,000.

The Switzerland-based union was founded in 1948 to promote the conservation of natural resources by monitoring their conditions, determining priorities for conservation and mobilising scientific and professional resources to investigate the most serious conservation problems.

Tal said that the department is undertaking specific measures to stem desertification through creating pasture lands along the rims of semi-desert lands in Jordan and through afforestation projects.

But he said, that the fight against the desert will cost \$1.6 million; and since no sufficient funds have yet arrived no steps have been taken to implement the project.

Water is another area of deep concern for the Environment Department which concluded an agreement with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) for regular testing of water samples. Tal noted.

He said that under the JD 60,000 agreement signed three years ago, the RSS is bound to conduct testing on 1,000 samples of potable and treated water.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Switching tails

PIECES ARE slowly falling into place in Israel's systematic drive to push the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to accept its offer of elections to choose representatives for "self-rule," or "autonomy" as one finds fit to call it, before a "final solution" is reached on the Palestinian problem. Having brought American pressure, though in vain, to bear upon the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to drop its insistence on Israeli withdrawal and international supervision as preconditions for proposed elections, the Israelis have slowly tightened the screws of brutality on the Palestinians as is evident in the mounting Palestinian deaths and casualties caused by Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied territories in the last few weeks.

Sunday's announcement that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the mastermind behind the scheme, will meet with 10 unidentified Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip next month to discuss the election plan was one of the crowning pieces in the Israeli strategy. We do not yet know the truth of the report carried by Israel's Haaretz daily that the 10 have been approved by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. At this point in time, it is not important. What is important is whether there is any change in the fundamental Israeli position that there could never be any withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. As far as we can see, there is no change whatsoever. So, where do the Arabs go from here? Bless the meeting and hope that by the time it takes place there could be a change, which has not come through since 1947, or since 1967, or 1987 when the ever-important intifada broke out?

All indications are that the next few weeks will witness a dramatic rise in Israeli violence in the occupied territories, setting the scene perfect, in Israeli thinking, to coerce and brutalise the Palestinians into accepting the election plan and suspending the intifada by dangling the bait of "negotiations." The next item on the Israeli agenda will be singling out whom the occupation power sees as leading Palestinian nationalists and expel or silence them through whatever means, including tacit unleashing of "Jewish extremists." Thus, under the Israeli scheme, whoever is left in the occupied territories will be left without leaders and will be more than willing to fall in line with whatever the Zionist state has in for them regardless of the PLO position. Perfect and simple, isn't it? But, what the masterminds seem to have opted to overlook while patting their brains to the "masterstroke plan" is that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories do not need an identified leadership to steer the uprising. Doubts could even be cast on whether today's underground Unified National Leadership of the Uprising has enough sway to restrain the teenagers on the streets from picking up a stone whenever they see an Israeli uniform. Quite simply, the "children of the revolution of stones" are willing to obey the orders of the leadership as well as parental guidance as long as they are directed at maintaining and strengthening the intifada but not the other way around in the absence of definite moves towards a comprehensive solution to their problem.

What Israel will find itself confronted with will be an entire generation of young Palestinians who could not care less if their actions are branded "moderate" or "extremist." We doubt whether switching from a tiger's tail to that of a lion is part of the Israeli scheme, but there is no doubt that is what the scenario will entail. We wonder how long it will take the Israelis to realise and accept the fact that it is high time to end the play and to acknowledge realities and draw the final curtains on occupation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Sunday the Jordanian Arabic dailies continued to discuss the outcome of the Alexandria summit. Al Ra'i daily said that King Hussein has rightly summed up the outcome of the summit by describing it as a concrete step reflecting the spirit of the Baghdad meeting where the four leaders of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen created the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC. Jordan for its part believes that the resolutions should be translated into concrete steps and practical work as was emphasised by Prime Minister Sherif Zaid Ibn Shaker upon his return from the Alexandria meeting, the paper noted. It said that Jordan will no doubt take all possible measures to implement the resolutions and apply the terms and the provisions of the agreement reached at Alexandria. Jordan, it added, takes pride in being the ACC headquarters and it would not spare any effort in providing facilities for its work and implementing these resolutions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily presents ideas conflicting with those put forth by some people advocating a reduction in the armed forces expenditure. Faded Al Fanek says in his column Sunday that spending on armaments and military equipment has been reduced by at least 25 per cent. This is a substantial reduction, and is bound to deprive the armed forces of modern equipment in a certain extent, the writer notes. He says that on the whole the total expenditure on a Jordanian soldier at the current level is less than one quarter of that spent on any soldier in the Arab Cooperation Council countries, and that Jordan's budget for its armed forces equals only two per cent of the total amount of the ACC armies.

Al Dustour daily said that the Alexandria summit has brought new hope to millions of people in the Arab world; and its resolutions are bound to bring about further strength to the Arab states. The paper said that the four leaders have worked together as a team and their resolutions reflected the ideas and the objectives of their countries which are now bound to put them into immediate application. The paper said that the four leaders have worked hard to put into concrete and practical steps what they had earlier agreed on at the Baghdad summit which brought about the birth of the ACC.



Gorbachev, glasnost emerge triumphant from congress

By Robert Evans
Reuter

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost have emerged triumphant from 14 days that shook the Soviet Union and sent crashing the taboos of decades in what was once the world's most secretive of societies.

As the Congress of People's Deputies closed last week the Soviet Communist Party leader exchanged a contented if weary smile with an old university friend on the platform.

"He got just what he wanted," said a young intellectual who throughout the two dramatic weeks had been glued to the live television transmissions that brought the proceedings of the new parliament to every corner of the land.

The congress elected Gorbachev the Soviet Union's first executive president.

He did not make totally clear what he wanted from the new body and its 2,250 deputies, many of whom were victors in the Soviet Union's first genuine electoral contests for almost 70 years.

But what he got was an outspoken debate in which the party's monopoly on power was seriously questioned, the KGB security police was denounced, senior Kremlin figures were called incompetent and he himself was challenged on his private life.

The Soviet army was angrily challenged over its role in the bloody suppression of a non-violent nationalist protest in Georgia two months ago by none other than that republic's new party chief.

Deputies from the three Baltic republics demanded and won creation of a commission to investigate the legality of their incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 — which Moscow has always insisted was voluntary and wildly popular.

And a gad-fly economist captivated even the most sceptical conservatives — and "old thinkers" in the new Soviet parlance — with a crystal-clear exposition of why Gorbachev's own policies could bring a financial crash.

The only major area of public life that remained unprobed was foreign policy, and it was in this area that the unflappable Gorbachev — who throughout skillfully steered the congress into something of a middle course — showed a flash of sensitivity.

When former dissident Andrei Sakharov — but of the conservatives and idol of the liberals — came to the rostrum on the final day to challenge a statement passed earlier on the bloodshed in China, the Kremlin chief sought to stop him.

In the personal struggle for a more humane Soviet society during two decades which brought him official opprobrium and six years in exile, Sakharov had constantly urged the need for glasnost or open debate on public issues.

At the congress, as a deputy from the Academy of Sciences, the frail physicist said Moscow should denounce Peking for the bloody assault by troops on student and worker "democracy" demonstrators in the Chinese capital just five days earlier.

Gorbachev, back only three weeks from a visit to China symbolically ended three decades of hostility, had almost certainly personally directed drafting of the statement, which declared that events in Peking were a Chinese internal affair.

Ironically, the congress itself

offered it — might have resolved the confrontation in Peking with no blood shed.

The session, avidly followed on radio and television in factories and offices and often bringing work to a standstill in far corners of the country, saw the effective official rehabilitation of former Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin, ousted from the party's ruling Politburo 18 months ago, swept into congress as wildly popular deputy for Moscow by crushing an official candidate in the elections, and for two weeks was rarely out of the public eye.

As the congress voted for members of its upper chamber, the 540-member Supreme Soviet which will sit in almost permanent session to discuss and approve new laws, Yeltsin — hated by the conservatives — was defeated in a secret vote.

Before he was formally elected to head the Supreme Soviet's committee on construction, he signalled his clear intention to maintain the position of a putative opposition leader by reasserting his alternative programme.

Gorbachev's final view of the congress was more positive. It had, he said, demonstrated the increasing effect his "perestroika" (restructuring) programme was having on the country — and also showed that democracy was possible in a one-party system.

went through.

"Big Boris," as many supporters call him for his bear-like Siberian frame, signalled however that he was not simply being co-opted, even though Gorbachev also presented him with the chairmanship of a Supreme Soviet committee.

In a brief but programmatic speech to the congress, he challenged Gorbachev's accumulation of power positions and challenged him to submit himself to an annual country-wide referendum on the presidency.

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Features



The archaeological museum at the University of Jordan houses a variety of pottery, glass and mosaic pieces.



A stone gate made of limestone on the university's campus. It was found in Irbid and dates back to the late first century.

Jordan through the ages

By Hind Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If you are a student at the University of Jordan who is rushing from one faculty building to another, and who does not have a minute to spare looking around, then many aspects of campus life pass you by. But if you are wandering around, strolling and actually seeing what is around you, then you could come up with some quite interesting discoveries.

Situated between the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Business and Administration are whitish rectangular stone slabs. They are structured in such a way as to form a small looking room with a larger slab for a roof. Several of these are seen next to each other, and they are obviously not a natural phenomena — They are dolmens, Iron Age tombs brought from the Jordan Valley.

A few metres from this area other archaeological objects are seen. Scattered here and there are a statue of a Roman goddess, Roman and Ayubid columns, and ancient stone gates. Because these objects are not affected by weather changes, they are found in a relatively good condition.

Following this trail of structures that date back to prehistoric times leads us to the university's archaeological museum to which

these structures belong.

"The purpose of having these objects outside on the campus" explains museum supervisor, Jumanah El-Assad, "is to familiarise and educate students with Jordan's past. They can walk around them, try to understand their history, and accumulate a deeper insight of the evolution of art, of human conditions and beliefs and their development with time; also how humans developed their inventions and interacted with nature."

The collection housed at the museum shows the history of Jordan via the remains displayed out by archaeological students belonging to the Faculty of Arts. Figurines and pottery pieces that are too delicate to be placed in the open air are displayed in the University's Archaeological Museum. It was established in 1962 and is funded solely by the University's budget. Some pieces exhibited there, such as the Ayyubid and Mamluk pottery, were gifts from Egypt.

El-Assad says that the Museum first started as a small project featuring objects from the Department of Antiquities. Since then it has expanded, housing more and more fruits of excavations carried throughout the years. These sights include Tell El-Mazar and Ain El-Basha in

Jerash.

Now the faculty is doing some research work at Al-Maqas area near Aqaba. Findings include a metallurgical centre, necklaces, and other artifacts. They belong to the Chalcolithic age, a transitional period between the Stone and Bronze ages.

Another sight is Rujm Al-Kursi near the Hussein Medical Centre. Remains of the Umayyad civilization were found here as well as Byzantine mosaic pieces.

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Following this is the Iron Age.

Here jugs and pottery pieces date

back to the three different king-

doms which were established in

Jordan: the Ammonite, Moabite

and Edomite kingdoms. Also

Persian influences were indicated

from the official stamps, and

military and metal objects exca-

vated.

The Classical Period, which

means Hellenistic and Roman

periods, embodies busts, Roman

glass and terracotta figurines. At

the time Alexander the Great

occupied all of the area which

explains the Hellenistic influence.

In the south of Jordan the Nab-

ateans built the rose city of Petra,

and hence they controlled the

routes of trade. Also involved in

trade were the Safaitics, an Arab

tribe, who left us with basalt

inscriptions.

During the Byzantine Period,

the Roman Empire adopted the

Christian religion. Unique and

superb mosaics dating back to

this time were found in Madaba.

Such works can be seen at the

museum as it features carefully

preserved mosaic slabs.

Jordan's trade and industry was

at its height in the following

Islamic period. Glazed pottery,

coins, and metallic artifacts re-

mained at the Rujm Al-Kursi.

Other sections are involved

with the Museum such as the

conservation, renovation and

photography sections. The aim of

having these extensions is of mak-

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Electronic technology spurs moves for instant global share trading

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Congress and government agencies, with the 1987 stock market crash still casting a long shadow, are moving cautiously to develop an instant global market for company shares.

A 24-hour stock market is considered inevitable, but there is still concern about control without vast new cooperative measures if an international selling panic were triggered.

Experts say electronic technology will create a worldwide trading system in stocks at any hour of the day or night, with instantaneous clearance, settlement and exchange of funds.

In such a system, there would be very little abuse, since the price anywhere in the world would be the same at the same time and the transaction would be completed, as one official put it, "in a heartbeat."

But this would require virtually

unprecedented cooperation among regulating agencies in various countries.

Officials, including Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, concede that such a system is years away.

Hearings before the Senate Banking Subcommittee on securities have focused on share-dealing without frontiers as congressmen tried to determine how legislation should guide the creation of global markets.

Connecticut Democrat Christopher Dodd and Pennsylvania Republican John Heinz have introduced legislation, at the urging of the Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC), to improve communication between international regulators and help keep U.S. markets competitive in the new environment.

To a degree, the legislation is the fallout of the stock market crash in October 1987 in which the Dow Jones industrial average dropped over 500 points in one day.

David Ruder, chairman of the SEC, the agency which oversees the U.S. securities market, said in testimony last week that the largest issue facing the industry was how to keep capital flowing into the system during a panic.

Currently firms that make markets in specific stocks, called specialists on the New York Stock Exchange, are required to keep markets orderly even when there are vastly more sellers and buyers.

A similar system of market makers would also exist in a

electronic setup but there are questions on how it would be regulated, particularly when trading moved across borders.

What is unclear, Ruder said, is who would operate and regulate such a system, determining such basic matters as what stocks would be traded and what information companies would have to disclose.

Legislation likely to be taken up soon by Congress would give the SEC more authority to promote international cooperation in the enforcement of securities laws.

The law would allow the SEC to obtain confidential documents from foreign authorities without publicly disclosing their contents, and empower it to bar, suspend or place limitations on brokers and other professionals based on the findings of a foreign court or foreign securities authority.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Amman brings high real estate income

AMMAN (J.T.) — Revenues collected by the Department of Lands and Survey in the first five months of 1989 registered an increase of JD 1,633 million over those in the same period of 1988, according to Ministry of Finance officials Sunday. They said that between January and May 1989 the department collected JD 7,408 million against JD 5,775 million in the same period of last year. The revenues came from fees which buyers and sellers of real estate pay in the course of transactions which require the buyer to pay six per cent of the total value of the real estate in tax while the seller pays only four per cent. According to the officials, most of the revenues came from such transactions within the Amman area, accounting for JD 5,361,597.

Panel approves Iraq-Jordan rail link

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi-Jordanian technical committee has approved a \$1.9 billion project to link Baghdad and the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba by rail. The new 1,000-kilometre line will stretch from Iraq's western town of Al Hadithah which has a rail connection with Baghdad, Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Sunday. The project is part of the economic integration plan of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) formed in Baghdad last February by Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen. Aqaba boomed recently as Iraq's main lifeline to the sea with a constant stream of lorries carrying goods to Baghdad.

Poland wants Kuwaiti investments

KUWAIT (R) — Warsaw has suggested Kuwait invest in projects in Poland such as food processing, the oil industry, tourism and hotels, the Kuwaiti commerce and industry minister has said. Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid made his comments on his return from a five-day visit to Warsaw where he held talks with Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski and Polish officials. "I felt every interest from the Polish premier to open doors before Kuwaiti investments in Poland in the various sectors," the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA quoted Khalid as saying. Poland also wanted to increase its presence in the Kuwaiti and Gulf markets, he said. A joint technical commission between the two countries will meet at the end of the year to review and revitalise existing agreements in technical cooperation, he said. KUNA said the commission will also pass two accords on encouraging and protecting investments and ending dual taxation.

Mali privatises largest bank

BAMAKO (R) — Mali's largest bank will open its capital to private and foreign partners next month as part of the West African country's privatisation programme, Finance and Trade Minister Tienou Coulibaly has said. Mali's Development Bank (BDM) is a 100 per cent state-owned financial institution which plays a key role in the country's battered economy. Coulibaly said from July 1 the state would only retain a 20 per cent stake in the bank's three billion CFA francs (about \$9 million) capital.

Rate cuts, competition hurt NTT

TOKYO (R) — Japanese telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) has reported lower sales and profits in the year ended March 31. "Rate cuts and robust competition in the market lowered our sales and profits last year," NTT President Haruo Yamaguchi told reporters. NTT posted net profit of 230.60 billion yen (\$1.65 billion) in 1988/89, a 5.2 per cent decline from the year before. Its current profit dropped by 14.3 per cent from a year ago to 425.90 billion yen (\$3.04 billion), on revenues of 5.65 trillion yen (\$40.38 billion), down by 0.2 per cent from a year earlier.

Olivetti forecasts flat profits in '89



Carlo De Benedetti, personal computer shipments in its U.S. partner American Telephone and Telegraph (AT and T) would drop sharply this year to around 36,000, from 116,000 in 1988. AT and T, which owns 21.2 per cent of Olivetti, said in April that it was seeking a second P.C. supplier in addition to Olivetti. De Benedetti said he expected AT and T to select Intel Corp. as an additional P.C. supplier. The U.S. company's chairman, Robert Allen, said in Andorra "would only be good business for AT and T to seek a second P.C. source."

Ethiopia announces wider liberalisation

ADDIS ABABA (R) —

Ethiopia's Marxist government has announced a package of economic reforms to boost private investment in small-scale industry and tourism.

The reforms were the latest in a series of cautious moves by the government to liberalise Ethiopia's state-controlled economy.

An official decree raised the amount of capital which private investors could invest in individual projects, the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said.

The decree also offered tax holidays, exemption from customs duties and other fringe benefits to investors, it said, adding that details would be published

soon. The reforms, aimed at stimulating the economy and creating employment, began with partial liberalisation of grain marketing in early 1988.

The agency said the ceiling on capital investment by individuals in small-scale industry had been raised to four million birr (\$9,68,000) from 200,000 (\$24,000) previously.

The ceiling for individuals investing in hotels had been raised to three million birr (\$1.3 million) from 200,000 (\$97,000) previously.

Entrepreneurs investing in joint ventures with the state would be allowed to invest up to six million birr (\$2.9 million) of private capital.

Hardships await new Greek premier

ATHENS (R) — Whoever wins the Greek general election will inherit an economy burdened with debt and double-digit inflation.

"My forecast is dramatically bad," centre-right opposition leader Constantine Mitsotakis said early in the campaign.

"I believe inflation will approach 30 per cent this year... and that the total budget deficit will reach 2.5 trillion drachmas (\$15.5 billion)."

His figures were about double the 1989 estimates by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, an economist trained at Harvard University.

Mitsotakis, trying to break eight years of rule by the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), holds a clear lead over Papandreou in opinion polls but a large number of undecided voters

could tip the balance.

The economy could be further hit by a crisis of confidence if no party wins an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament. Private bankers and economists say such an outcome is likely because of a new voting system which favours smaller parties.

The Bank of Greece, the country's central bank, has also sounded the alarm over the dangers of public deficits and fears of a surge in inflation, which at 14 per cent is already the highest in the European Community.

"Without controlling the state deficit at levels set by the government and a drastic reduction in

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Sunday, June 18, 1989

Central Bank official rates

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French franc 84.4 85.2

Japanese yen (for 100) 392.1 396.0

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U.S. dollar 567.7 573.7

Pound Sterling 875.6 884.4

Deutschmark 286.4 289.3

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Scrap Africa's foreign debt'

KAMPALA (R) — Africa's top economist has challenged leading industrialised countries to make history at their Paris summit in July by scrapping much of his continent's \$230 billion foreign debt.

The debt burden is still as serious, as great, as endangering as ever," Adegbajo Adedeji, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, told Reuters at the weekend.

He welcomed the announcement by French President Francois Mitterrand last month cancelling debts of 35 poor African countries, estimated at \$2.3 billion.

But the effect of this and other initiatives since the last summit of the seven leading industrialised democracies in Toronto a year ago fell short of what was needed, he said.

"If what's been done was meant to get to the heart of Africa's debt problem, and release resources for development, then we have barely started," he

said. "If any initiative emerges (in Paris) to reduce significantly and progressively the debt stock, then I will say it's an historic conference."

Africa's debt increased nearly 30 per cent in the past two years to equal four-fifths of the continent's annual economic activity, as measured by its gross domestic product, and more than treble the value of its export income.

Adedeji said the Toronto package, which offered partial debt write-off, interest rate cuts and longer repayment terms, appeared to have provided only about \$500 million in actual relief so far.

Postponing the evil day

"One hopes that when the seven meet in Paris they will bring in an even more comprehensive programme," he said.

"What is imperative is that there must be significant debt reduction. Any other measure is only a palliative. Rescheduling is postponing the evil day."

Nahas' failure to pay left several broking firms with debts.

There is no official estimate of the size debts left by Nahas, but exchange sources said it could be around 200 million cruzados (\$148 million at official rates).

A sharp fall in share prices after the scandal broke has caused further losses for brokers and investors. Friday, shares fell around 10 per cent and blue-chip oil stock Petrobras dropped 31 per cent to 3,600 cruzados (\$2,666 at official rates) per share.

Stock exchange sources have described the Nahas scandal as the worst in the bourse's 144

year history. They said it could take several years for investors to regain confidence in the market.

The Brazilian stock market has been a haven of security as the country's economy has spiralled downwards and inflation hit a record 934 per cent last year.

Share prices in Rio — affected by the worst of the affair — suffered a real gain of over 70 per cent last year.

But regulatory authorities and newspapers have said for some time that the exchange was dominated by a handful of large investors, one of them Nahas.

Nahas has clashed with bourse authorities before, both here and abroad.

He was fined \$250,000 in the United States for his part in alleged attempt to manipulate the world silver market in 1979 and 1980.

Changing rules in the middle of the game

Nahas, a Brazilian citizen, has said he is the victim of unfair pressure and attempts "to alter

the rules of the game in the middle of the match," which led him to instruct his banks to stop paying cheques.

Stock market officials said Nahas had been taking advantage of rules that allowed him to receive funds from share sales on the same day but gave him up to five days to pay for purchases.

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Moscow eager to sign START; but prospects seen grim

GENEVA (R) — Moscow is keen to conclude negotiations with Washington on strategic arms cuts but the United States wants modifications — and progress seems unlikely at a new round of talks opening in Geneva Monday.

Negotiations on a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear arms with a range of 5,000 kilometres were interrupted last November with major issues still outstanding.

The Soviet Union admits a break in the strategic arms reduction talks (START) was necessary to give time to the new U.S. administration to review defence policy after President George Bush took office in January.

But chief Soviet negotiator Yuri Nazarkin showed Moscow's impatience when he said in Geneva Friday the seven-month gap was too long and hard work was needed to make up for it.

The Soviet Union's proclaimed goal is the abolition of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Diplomats in Geneva said the U.S. administration's interest seems to have shifted from nuclear to conventional forces, making swift progress on START unlikely.

U.S. chief negotiator Richard

reserves the right to make revisions once the talks resume.

Major differences remain on mobile missiles, sea and air launched cruise missiles and on a verification regime.

One of the main outstanding issues is whether a START treaty should be linked to a deal curbing the U.S. "Star Wars" project for a strategic anti-missile defence system based in space.

The United States wants to make extensive tests of Star Wars devices and to deploy them after an agreed period. Moscow says this would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM).

It is not clear if the two sides will come up with new proposals to break deadlock on these issues. Nazarkin said he had not come empty-handed but he did not elaborate.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday: "Our negotiators are going to Geneva with a commitment to negotiate seriously, and to make significant progress towards agreement."

"We are proceeding on the assumption that the other side is ready," Nazarkin said. Washington says it is ready, although it

Bush moved to dispel this by telling the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month that a START treaty was "the first ranked issue for arms control."

At a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit in Brussels May 29, Bush called for cuts in U.S. and Soviet troops and military hardware in Europe and set a target date of six to 13 months for agreement at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) conference in Vienna.

Nazarkin said the Soviet Union welcomed such initiatives and that they were bound to help other aspects of disarmament.

But he said he hoped Bush's dramatic move would not cast too dark a shadow on START. Diplomats say the risk is real and they wonder if the U.S. is quite ready for a resumption.

"We are proceeding on the assumption that the other side is ready," Nazarkin said. Washington says it is ready, although it



The Soviet space shuttle Buran (top) was a big crowd-drawer at the Le Bourget air show

Soviets fly high at Paris air show

PARIS (AP) — The Soviet Union upstaged its competitors at the Paris Air Show with a selection of military and commercial aircraft and a new marketing flair.

Soviet pilots flew aerobatic routines in jet fighters never before seen in the West, wowing the crowds. On the ground, industry professionals appeared just as impressed.

"This air show has made me aware that they intend to aggressively seek foreign currency through the sale of their aircraft to the West," said James Roberts, a U.S. Commerce Department official.

"I never before considered them a competitive threat. Now I do," said Roberts, who attended the 10-day show, which closed Sunday.

The Soviets even managed to turn the crash of the MiG-29 on the show's opening day to their advantage. The pilot, Anatoly Kvochur, became the hero of the day and the seat that allowed him

to eject safely captured attention as the technology of the hour.

At the world's greatest aviation show-and-sell, the Soviets impressed visitors with the range and sophistication of their 12 aircraft on display, including two new airliners, the latest jet fighters and the massive AN-225 transport carrying the space shuttle Buran.

"Clearly the Soviet aircraft industry has made enormous strides," said Ian Woodward, a spokesman for British Aerospace commercial planes. "They've been behind but they're catching up fast."

A team of seven Soviet salesmen employed by Aviaexport, the Soviet marketing arm, worked nonstop.

Moscow's Central Institute of Aviation Motors offered air show participants its research services. Soviet aircraft components were on display in the USSR pavilion. The Soviet space agency Glavkosmos marketed its launch

services and had design engineers on hand for nearly every Soviet plane displayed.

Anatoly Bulanenko, deputy chief designer for the Antonov Design Bureau, told reporters that permission had been granted for the AN-225 to be leased or chartered to foreign clients to carry commercial freight.

The plane, which can haul up to 250 tonnes, will carry space rockets for the European space agency next fall.

Bulanenko acknowledged that political difficulties may rise in arranging deals, but said "business should come first."

Many industry observers predicted the Soviets will experience some turbulence in seeking to put their planes in Western skies.

"They will need to convince customers that the airplanes are reliable, have good support and low maintenance costs," said John Hayhurst, a marketing executive for Boeing Company, the largest U.S. civil aircraft maker.

Haughey faces political crisis

DUBLIN (R) — Charles Haughey, his dreams of an overall majority shattered in Ireland's snap election, faces a political crisis in his battle to become prime minister for the fourth time.

Haughey, who plunged the country into chaos by calling the election which left him worse off than before, has two weeks to wheel and deal his way back to power.

When the marathon two-day count was completed Saturday night, Haughey's Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party had 77 seats, six short of an overall majority in the 165-seat parliament.

Next came the centre-right Fine Gael (Tribe of the Gaels) with 55. The resurgent left-wing Labour and Workers parties, big winners in the poll, had 22 seats combined.

The Progressive Democrats, made up of Haughey dissidents, had six and the rest went to independents.

Protest votes helped to thwart Haughey. In the Rosscommon constituency a pub owner snatched the seat after campaigning against hospital clo-

U.N. plan would send thousands of peacekeepers to Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Parties to the 11-year-old war in Cambodia are discussing a U.N. plan that would send thousands of military observers to supervise a peace agreement, says a senior diplomat.

The huge operation would be similar to the current decolonisation mission in Namibia, the world's most expensive peacekeeping force, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.N. officials are running out of time to lay their plans, as Vietnam has announced it will withdraw all of its 70,000 remaining troops from Cambodia by Sept. 30.

A three-party alliance of the former Khmer Rouge rulers, forces loyal to former Premier Son Sann, and those backing the former head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, have been battling the Cambodian government of Hun Sen, which was installed by Hanoi.

In remarks last month to the Asia Society, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the plan is similar to the Namibian operation.

In its current formulation, the plan calls for at least 2,000 U.N. military observers as well as election monitors to oversee balloting for a new coalition government.

In Namibia, about 4,650 military observers, 620 election monitors, 820 local civilian staff and a force of police supervisors that will soon be doubled to 1,000 are overseeing the territory's transition to independence after 74 years of South African rule.

The senior diplomat, however, said he believed the United Nations would supervise the withdrawal and the establishment of some form of new coalition government.

The resistance armies could be disarmed, as the Namibian guerrillas have been, or could be confined to bases in the present positions under U.N. supervision, he said.

Vietnam has resisted the idea of U.N. involvement because the world body recognises the resistance as the legitimate government. Hanoi and its Cambodian officials have expressed a preference for having India, Poland and Canada supervise the Vietnamese withdrawal.

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According to opinion polls, Bush lags behind his Soviet counterpart in much of Western Europe — and even in the United States. In other parts of the world, Gorbachev has managed to polish the Soviet Union's image at the expense of the United States.

"In just a few years, Gorbachev turned long-held perceptions of the superpowers upside down," said a European diplomat. "Not so long ago, Moscow was seen as inflexible, the people who said 'never' to change suggested from Washington. Now it is the other way round."

Gorbachev in West Ger-



Confident Cambodian militiamen claim that the Khmer Rouge, though present and propagandis-

ing in the countryside, no longer pose a military threat

Gorbachev widens 'charisma gap' with Bush

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — In the superpower race for image, Mikhail Gorbachev has widened his lead over George Bush with a visit to West Germany which pointed a "charisma gap" between the two.

According to opinion polls, Bush lags behind his Soviet counterpart in much of Western Europe — and even in the United States. In other parts of the world, Gorbachev has managed to polish the Soviet Union's image at the expense of the United States.

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Gorbachev in West Ger-

many enjoyed the kind of adoring, tumultuous reception usually given to pop stars or football players. Opinion polls gave him the highest popularity rating ever won by a foreign politician. The press compared him with John F. Kennedy.

There were no such comparisons when President Bush visited West Germany two weeks before the Kremlin chief. "What we are seeing is a charisma gap," a European diplomat here said. "Gorbachev has it (charisma) and Bush has not."

Even on Bush's home turf, he comes second to the Soviet leader: in a public opinion poll conducted by the New York-based Louis Harris Company in February and March, Bush won a 57 per cent approval rate compared with 64 per cent for Gorbachev.

A Gallup Poll last year for "the most admired man" placed Gorbachev second after then President Ronald Reagan.

but ahead of Bush. The year before, Gorbachev became the first Soviet figure ever to make the Gallup list, tied for eighth with Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca.

Some analysts ascribe Gorbachev's rise to political stardom in the United States to the low expectations Americans had of Soviet leaders.

"Since the popularity of Soviets was so low, anyone who can walk, talk eloquently, wear a well-cut suit and have an attractive wife with an American Express Card is bound to win the attention of Americans," Soviet specialist Dimitri Simes told Reuters.

A senior analyst with the Carnegie Endowment, an independent think tank, Simes said a large part of Gorbachev's popularity in Europe stemmed from his arms control initiatives which had inspired a sense of hope for the future.

Gorbachev's success as a

player on the world scene, diplomats say, is explained in part by a new Soviet willingness to beat the Americans at public relations (PR) techniques the Americans once regarded as their exclusive preserve.

U.S. television coverage stressed the public relations aspect of the Gorbachev visit to Germany, a theme that was not played prominently for the Bush visit though on both occasions presidential staff created schedules and photo opportunities for the same PR ends.

Elsewhere in Europe, Gorbachev's moves on ending the arms race have also placed him far ahead of Bush.

In France, a poll by the country's biggest television network placed him on top of the 1988 "man of the year" list, ahead of national soccer coach Michel Platini and French President Francois Mitterrand.

Last month, the French

Interflug deaths rise to 17

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — At least 17 people were killed when an East German jet carrying 113 people slammed onto a runway, veered into a field, and burst into flames Saturday after an aborted takeoff, officials said.

Forty-seven people were injured, 13 seriously, East German Transport Minister Otto Arndt said earlier. However, the official news agency ADN said two of the injured died overnight.

One of the dead was a farmer working in the field, ADN had quoted Arndt as saying.

The Moscow-bound jet, carrying 103 passengers and a crew of 10, was racing down the runway of East Berlin's Schoenefeld airport and had lifted off slightly when the pilot decided to abort the takeoff, ADN said.

It was not immediately known why he aborted takeoff.

The Soviet-built Ilyushin II-62 slammed to the ground, careened through runway barriers, veered into a field, then burst into flames and broke apart, the news reports said.

"I felt an impact, and then the plane jolted. Suddenly the plane stopped and I saw flames," East German Television quoted an unidentified passenger as saying.

Passengers jumped from sections where the fuselage was torn open or slid down emergency chutes, ADN said.

Rescue workers found several bodies in an overnight search of the smoldering wreckage of the jet, owned by the state-run Interflug airline, ADN said. It did not say in its latest reports if more people were missing.

Most passengers were East Germans, according to ADN. The plane also carried 11 Soviet passengers, two from Poland, one from Italy and one from Nepal, the news agency said.

About 700 firefighters, police and other officials rushed to the scene to put out the fire and aid rescue efforts.

A pilot, who was not identified, helped passengers out of the burning aircraft even though he himself was injured, ADN said.

A newscast on East German Television showed the airplane's smoldering wreckage resting in a field, its nose sheared off and pieces of metal scattered around.

"There was a jolt, and then everything was dark. My husband and I felt our way through the smoke to an exit," the news agency quoted Elke Fuchs, an East German woman injured in the accident, as saying.

Diethart Guenther, a safety expert with the Interflug airline, said the aircraft was "torn apart and completely burned out" in the accident, ADN said.

Arndt said the country's fleet of Ilyushin-62 aircraft would be grounded for safety inspections.

ADN said a high-level government commission was directing the rescue operation and would conduct an investigation.

The last serious accident with a jetliner at Schoenefeld airport was Dec. 12, 1986, when an Aeroflot Tupolev 154 crashed into a wooded area as it prepared to land, killing 80 people.

Investigators later said the cause of the accident was a misunderstanding between the pilot and airport control tower.

Interflug officials declined to speculate on the cause of Saturday's accident, the airline's first since 1975 and worst since 156 died in a mid-air blast aboard an II-62 in 1972.

COLUMN

'Granny and Clyde' walk away free

LONDON (R) — Two gun-toting pensioners dubbed "Granny and Clyde" who stole £2,500 (\$3,800) in a hold-up to help pay a crippling mortgage have walked free from court. A judge gave Bert and Eleni Butler two-year suspended sentences Friday, ruling that they were desperate when they fiddled into a building society branch in west London, wearing balaclavas and armed with a loaded pistol and a imitation gun. A cashier laughed and said "don't be silly, act your age," but later handed over money. Grandparents Bert, 65, and Eleni, 61, were caught by police shortly after the raid as they waited at a red traffic light in their getaway car.

Venomous letter lands collector in court

LONDON (R) — A reptile collector who mailed a venomous letter was fined £1,000 (\$1,500) Friday. The package contained one of the world's most poisonous reptiles, a pink and black Gila Monster wrapped in a sock. Frightened post office sorters raised the alarm when the paper envelope holding the 30-centimetre long lizard suddenly moved. They found three more Gila Monsters, all very much alive and all wrapped in separate packages, at the sorting office. Prosecutors told a court in Southampton, southern England, that collector Peter Cooke, a 23-year-old medical salesman, posted lizards and poisonous snakes to himself while on a trip to the United States. Cooke admitted illegally importing reptiles — including seven rattlesnakes he had stuffed into his suitcase. Customs officers said they found more than 60 reptiles, including a python and cobras, at Cooke's home.

Greedy silkworms fail to spin the goods

TREviso, Italy (R) — Italy has lost almost all its silk crop this year because the silkworm larvae have been too busy eating to stop